

β1  
(a4)

- a flexible conductor having electric and/or electronic switch elements, and a zone supporting the switch elements, wherein the haptic element acts on at least one switch element when the operating element is actuated, and wherein the zone of the flexible conductor and an associated zone of the haptic element are configured so that they are positioned and fixed relative to each other without establishing a permanent electrical conductive connection between the flexible conductor and the haptic element, and wherein the socket receives the switch elements such that the base body and the operating element receive the switch elements, and wherein when the socket receives the switch elements, the switch elements enter into an active connection with the operating element so that a switch signal is triggered during actuation of the operating element by means of the switch elements.

2. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the haptic element cannot be brought into electrically conductive connection with at least one of the switch elements.

3. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the haptic element has no electrically conductive component parts which can be coupled electrically with at least one of the switch elements.

4. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the haptic element can only be brought into electrically conductive connection with at least one of the switch elements by actuating the operating element of the haptic element.

5. (Amended) The switch according to claim 4 wherein the electrically conductive connection only exists for as long as the

switch is in a switching state, established by actuating the operating element.

6. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the haptic element has no electrical structural elements apart from an electrical conductor.

7. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the haptic element has as a single electrically conductive component which can be coupled electrically with at least one of the switch elements which is a contact bridge with which an electrical connection can be established between two switch elements.

8. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the zones of the conductor and the haptic element are formed as mechanical plug connectors and wherein the base body of the haptic element includes the socket zone with which the zone of the flexible conductor for supporting the switch elements is brought into positive engagement.

9. (Amended) The switch according to claim 8 wherein the zone of the flexible conductor for supporting the switch elements has a mechanical reinforcement element.

10. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 9 wherein the mechanical reinforcement element is formed as one of a frame around the edges of the conductor, a plate attached to a back surface of the conductor and a cast element attached in surrounding relation to the connector.

11. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 9 wherein the mechanical reinforcement element has at least one detent element

for securing the insert position in respect of the haptic element and/or means for sealing the plug zone against damp.

12. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the zones of the conductor and haptic element are formed as clamp-fit connections wherein the base body of the haptic element includes the socket zone and a fixing element connectable therewith so that the zone of the flexible conductor for supporting the switch elements can be clamped between the socket of the haptic element and the fixing element.

Bl  
Cont  
13. (Amended) The switch according to claim 12 wherein the fixing element is connected in one piece with the base body of the haptic element through a film hinge and wherein the fixing element and the base body are each composed of a plastic material.

14. (Amended) The switch according to claim 12 wherein the fixing element and the base body of the haptic element are separate component parts and wherein the fixing element is formed as a clamping plate.

15. (Amended) The switch according to claim 12 further comprising means for positioning the zone of the flexible conductor for supporting the switch elements relative to the base body of the haptic element.

16. (Amended) The switch according to claim 15 wherein the means for positioning the zone of the conductor are formed on the conductor in the form of at least one recess and on the base body of the haptic element in the form of corresponding studs.

17. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor are formed as electrical contact faces which are allocated an electrical contact bridge which is connected to the operating element of the haptic element and which when the operating element is actuated closes an electrical circuit connected to at least one of the switch elements.

18. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor are provided in boxes, in the form of SMD switches or switch mats.

B1  
cont  
19. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor are designed as magneto-resistive structural elements which are each allocated a permanent magnet which is connected to an actuating element of the haptic element.

20. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor are formed as inductive or capacitive close range approach switches.

21. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor are formed as transponder readers.

22. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor are formed as passive or active optical elements allocated on the operating element of the haptic element for reflection for the purpose of establishing a visual transmission path or means for interrupting a visual transmission path.